

<Operation: Streamline II logo>

<MAEP break out>

Education Reform: Fundamentals, Not Just Funding

- In keeping with the Governor's theme of putting more money in the classroom rather than administration, the Governor's Budget increases instructional spending by 8.4% and decreases non-instructional spending by 5%.
- During Mississippi's budget crisis, instructional education funding is one of the only areas Governor Barbour targets for an increase in his budget.
- Overall, Governor Barbour is recommending a 4% increase in the Mississippi Adequate Education Program.
- The Governor's Budget proposes that, for the first time, Mississippi spend more than \$4,000 per student.
- Plant Operations/Maintenance spending for schools in the Governor's Budget is virtually the same (\$200,000,000) as was budgeted in FY04.
- As part of the Governor's "UpGrade" education reform plan, \$1 million is allocated in the budget to fund mentors at all Mississippi middle schools to assist with discipline problems
- Governor Barbour's budget acknowledges that Mississippi has virtually the same number of public school students as five years ago, and we spend 46% more on K-12 education than we did five years ago.
- Governor Barbour strongly believes that school administrators should not take his dedicated increases in instructional money and spend it on administration.

- If Governor Barbour's "UpGrade" education reform initiatives are passed, half of Mississippi schools will be free of State Department of Education mandates which means there will be less administration needed in schools and more opportunity to find efficiencies in operations.